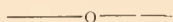


despoiled of its leaves, and its peculiar appearance, with nothing but its long slender pods depending from its branches. It is said that, in the South, *Catalpa* trees are planted in order that the larvæ may be obtained for bait. I would call attention to this fact so that those who may be piscatorially inclined can take advantage of it.



## RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD COLLECTING GROUNDS.

By H. F. WICKHAM, Iowa City, Iowa.

### VI.—THE COLORADO DESERT AND ITS ENVIRONS (Concluded).

At Yuma, where I stopped for a few days two years later, a number of the same features were noticed that marked collecting at The Needles, but some species were taken that I had not met with at the latter place. In the willow trees along the river bottom I found considerable numbers of *Chalcolepidius webbia* and many specimens of a fine black and orange colored Longhorn, *Dendobrias mandibularis*. I think this *Dendobrias* must feed, as a larva, on willows, at least in those spots where the tree grows. The adults may often be seen pairing on the living trunks. Nevertheless, I have occasionally captured the beetles in the semi-desert regions of Arizona, far from water, and consequently distant from any willow trees. There is great variation in size, color and mandibular development, even in the same sex. Some males show scarcely any trace of the transverse post-median black band which is so characteristic of fully marked specimens.

Some *Staphylinidæ* were obtained by throwing water on banks of pools or by rolling over pieces of wood in wet places. Among them I may enumerate *Actobius pæderoides*, *A. gratus*, *Stenus incultus*, *Cryptobium arizonense*, *Sunius similis*, *Trogophleus dentiger*, *T. gilæ* and *T. tantillus*. Under bark I took *Adelina lecontei*, *Ditoma ornata* and *D. sulcata*. On mesquit trees or on posts of this same wood were secured specimens of *Chrysobothris octocola*, *Acmaødera gibbula* and *Polycesta velasco*. A magnificent *Chrysobothris atrofasciata* was seen at rest on a bush and created quite a flutter of excitement until safely landed in my bottle. The Buprestidæ are so active in very hot climates that they often escape after being located, and it is no easy matter to

grasp them in a hurry if, as usual, the shrub on which the insect rests is a thorny one.

Beating thickets in low-lying districts was not productive of many good things; however, I took one or two *Stenosphenus debilis* in this way. So few Tenebrionidæ were secured (by the usual method of rolling logs and ties in dry spots) that I refrain from any remarks on them, more particularly since those taken were not characteristic. So much collecting has been done in this vicinity by many a good entomologist that the fauna is comparatively well known and no lack of records exist.

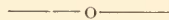
A much less known region lies to the westward of Yuma, where the Southern Pacific Railroad crosses the desert proper and traverses for a long distance the dried-up bed of a salt lake or ancient sea. In some places this now lies not less than three hundred and sixty feet below the level of the waters of the Pacific. Near the northern rim of this great basin lies the station of Indio, fifty feet below sea level and surrounded by a sandy plain which rises into mountains at a distance of but a few miles. The sand forms curious little hillocks, apparently through being blown up against the stems of the bushes by the wind. As these bushes grow higher they are again partially whelmed by the sand and a repetition of this process finally results in the formation of a considerable dune.

Since but a single day was spent here, only a cursory glance could be given the fauna. I saw specimens of *Gyascutus planicosta* flying in the sun about the bushes and got a large weevil, near *Cleonus*, about the roots of weeds near the railroad tracks. This weevil was new then, but has since been described by Captain Casey as *Dinocleus wickhamii*. My spoils from this vicinity also include *Apristus laticollis*, *Nocibiotes gracilis* and an *Eupagoderes* which seems to be *varius*. Among the Tenebrionidæ I got some *Eurymetopon rufipes* and *Tribolium ferrugineum* chiefly from the floor of a pump-house, built over a well. The owner slept in the shelter and complained that the *Eurymetopon* bit him at night. His suspicions may, however, have been unjust. *Eleodes armata* was taken sparingly; one or two *Cerenopus concolor* and *Cryptoglossa verrucosa* were captured under logs in the palm grove lying some six miles away at the foot of the hills. A single *Hymenorus grandicollis* is also numbered among my victims.

The Mojave Desert is practically "all of a piece" with the Colorado. A day at the station of Mojave—which seems to have no excuse for existence other than the fact of being a junction point for the Southern and the Atlantic and Pacific Railroads—resulted in an experience which, while interesting, was hardly pleasant. It is necessary, in making trips across these dry sands, to carry water for drinking, and every one is supposed to know this. But having packed up my canteen and sent it with other baggage to San Francisco, I foolishly started out without any liquid provision to visit a large clump of yuccas some seven miles away. All went well for a few hours, in fact until after eating a dry noon-day lunch, I felt no serious inconvenience and in order to make the most of the collecting delayed starting back until the need of water became too pressing to be put off any longer. The trouble began with the recrossing of miles of sand burning under a July sun. I reached the station late in the afternoon with a mouth like an oven and the power of speech almost gone. Quarts of water were needed to satisfy my thirst, and as I drank spots and blotches—some of them as large as a dollar and accompanied by an intense itching—appeared on my body, the result no doubt of an overheated blood. This was followed by weakness and discomfort lasting several days, and it is probable that only a system inured to ordinary exposure by weeks of hard work in similar regions saved me from serious consequences. It is to be hoped that this account may deter any collector, under whose eye it may fall, from falling into a similar error.

The insects taken were not numerous. Several species were found on flowers or in bushes, among them *Hyperaspis lateralis*, *Hyperaspidius trimaculatus*, *Coccinella franciscana*, *Phalacrus penicillatus*, *Hyppodamia ambigua*, *H. 5-signata*, *Listrus ferrugineus*, *Pristoscelis eupthropus*, *Attalus lobulatus*, *Zabrotes obliterated* and *Synertha imbricata*. Under ties along the track or beneath fallen yuccas farther out on the plains I took *Triorophus laevis*, *Eurymetopon convexicolle*, *Notibius puncticollis*, *Coniontis robusta*, *Eleodes dentipes* and *E. quadricollis*. Amongst the yuccas were captured *Rhagoderma tuberculata*, *Colastus yuccæ*, *Trogosita virescens*, *Cynæus angustus*, *Esthesopus dispersus*, *Eupagoderes varius* and one or two *Scyphophorus yuccæ*. There was no chance to do any work along water-courses for the simple reason that none such exist. The adventure referred to prevented more than one day being spent here.

Eastward of Mojave, about sixty miles, lies Barstow. A year before my above-related experience I had stopped off at the latter place for a day's work in the middle of August with some results in the way of entomological booty. A few pools of water were then to be found in the river-bed, giving one a chance at a somewhat more varied fauna and the few cottonwoods lining the banks also yielded some things. I took about twenty-five species of beetles, which may be mentioned as follows: *Cnemidotus simplex*, *Laccophilus decipiens*, *L. mexicanus*, *Deronectes striatellus*, *Rhantus binotatus* and *Berosus punctatissimus* in pools. *Tecnophilus croceicollis*, *Triorophus lævis*, *Edrotes ventricosus*, a *Coniontis* near *opaca*, *Eurymetopon convexicolle*, *E. cylindricum*, *Eleodes quadricollis*, *Ulus crassus*, *Blapstinus pubescens* and *Eucyllus vagans* under logs and rubbish. *Cicindela pacifica* on a muddy flat. *Epierus regularis*, var. *vicinus*. *Hololepta populnea*, *Hesperobiænus abbreviatus* and a *Cossonus* from beneath cottonwood bark. Around roots of weeds a few *Dinocleus molitor*. On flowers, one *Hippodamia convergens*, one *Pyropyga fenestralis* and a lot of *Nemognatha* near *apicalis*.



### A NEW CHALCOLEPIDIUS.

By H. C. FALL.

Among a lot of *Chalcolepidius webbii* taken by me in July, 1895, at Yuma, were two examples—♂ ♀—which appeared different from the rest of the catch, and were set apart for further developments. On examining a large lot of *Chalcolepidius* received the past summer from Phoenix, Ariz., by Dr. H. G. Griffith, many of the specimens were at once recognized as being like my Yuma pair, and renewed examination shows it not only to be quite distinct from *webbii*, but also from any of the described Mexican forms. As specimens are soon likely to be quite generally distributed, it deserves to be formally introduced, and this may best be done by comparing it with *webbii*, to which it bears a general resemblance.

**C. tartarus** n. sp.—Generally smaller, more parallel and less convex than *webbii*, the border of white scales much narrower throughout. On the thorax this border does not encroach on the disk as is the case in well preserved *webbii*, but is sharply limited within, and less than half as wide as the central darker area. On the elytra the white border is strictly marginal at base, but becomes submarginal behind the middle. The elytra are more strongly striate than in *webbii*, the striae punctured